

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

a) at least two implant parts comprising:

i) a first implant part; and

ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the implant can be

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inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column, wherein said joining plate is configured in a star shaped manner; and

wherein said joining plate has an opening formed in said joining plate for releasable attachment of said joining plate wherein said opening is configured to lie outside of a center of gravity of said joining plate wherein said joining plate further comprises a plurality of passage openings and a plurality of ridges disposed around said plurality of passage openings and wherein a support surface of said joining plate is enlarged on one side.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a thickness that corresponds to between 2% and 30% of a height of at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate projects beyond an outside contour of said implant.

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4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein a shape of said opening is adapted to an outside contour of said implant.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said opening is positioned to be in a center of gravity of said joining plate.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein a surface of said joining plate that faces a vertebrae is shaped as a convex dome.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a means for attachment and is attached to at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 9, further comprising a catch seat wherein said means for attachment

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is formed by a plug-in connection formed between said joining plate and at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 9, wherein said means for attachment comprises a groove formed in a free end of said at least one of said at least two implant part; and further comprising a spring mounted in a groove in an opening formed in said joining plate.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of mandrels or cutting blades coupled to a side of said joining plate that faces a vertebra.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 3, wherein said joining plate has a passage opening.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 17, wherein said joining plate has a plurality of passage openings.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 18, wherein at least one of said plurality of passage openings extends to an outer edge of said joining plate.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of plate ridges on said joining plate are coupled to each other at a free end of said plurality of plate ridges to form an edge of said joining plate.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 21, further comprising a rotatable threaded ring coupled to said second implant part, and wherein said first implant part has threads which engage with a set of threads in said rotatable

threaded ring, wherein said rotatable threaded ring has a bevel wheel gearing.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a side that faces the vertebrae and is orientated at an incline to said longitudinal axis.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a side that faces said at least two implant parts and is orientated at an incline to a longitudinal axis.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 24, wherein an angle of said incline of said joining plate is between 3 degrees and 45 degrees.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 23, wherein said joining plate has a rotational position that can be fixed in place about a longitudinal axis relative to said at least two implant parts.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 26, further comprising a plurality of catch seats formed between said joining plate and said at least two implant parts in a circumferential direction, in step widths from between 10 degrees to 45 degrees.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

a) at least two implant parts comprising:

i) a first implant part; and

ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the implant can be

inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column;

~~wherein said joining plate has a means for attachment and is attached to at least one of said at least two implant parts wherein said means for attachment is formed by a plug-in connection formed between said joining plate and at least one of said at least two implant parts, said plug-in having a first side having a groove extending around said plug-in and a spring disposed in said groove, and at least one mandrel disposed on an opposite side of said plug-in and wherein said joining plate is configured in a star shaped manner.~~

a catch seat formed on a free end of at least one of said implant parts, said catch seat configured to receive said plug-in.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

- a) at least two implant parts comprising:

- i) a first implant part; and
- ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein said joining plate has an opening formed in said joining plate and configured to be outside of a center of gravity of said joining plate and wherein a support surface of said joining plate is enlarged on one side;

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the implant can be inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column wherein said joining plate projects beyond an outside contour of said implant wherein said joining plate has a plurality of passage openings and wherein at least one of said plurality of passage openings extends to an

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outer edge of said joining plate wherein said joining plate is configured in a star-shaped manner for forming a sharp separating plane between a vertebrae and the implant for facilitating an osseous connection between the vertebrae and the implant.